

66

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

22 March 1968

25X1

25X1

Life Magazine Publishes Radvanyi's Expose of Peace Hoax

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter's bogus attempt to  
portray himself as a Vietnam mediator in 1966 has been revealed 25X1

GROUP I  
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

-2-

in Life magazine by Janos Radvanyi, the former charge d'affaires of the Hungarian Embassy in Washington. Radvanyi served as one of Peter's channels in the affair, and subsequently defected to the US. Hungary has not officially commented on Radvanyi's article, but a Budapest newsman has reported that the article caused a sensation in the press corps. The newsman also opined that Radvanyi's portrayal of Peter as a liar would incense the Foreign Minister. He forecast a cooling of US-Hungarian relations because of Hungarian suspicions of official US complicity in the preparation of the article.

In a related sidelight, Life president Linen has reaffirmed his intention of visiting Hungary this week even though there is small prospect for his plans to meet with high level officials. The Embassy has cancelled a reception for Mr. Linen and has warned him that he might expect a poor welcome from the Hungarians. 25X1 25X1

#### Rumanian Leader Meets With Visiting Time-Life President

Party and state chief Ceausescu held a cordial talk with James Linen, President of the Time-Life Press Corporation on 21 March in Bucharest. Rumania's Acting Foreign Minister Macovescu also participated in the meeting. 25X1 25X1

COMMENT: Ceausescu's reception of Linen during the same week in which Life magazine has published the Radvanyi article (see preceding item), a stylized Rumanian chop at Hungarian-Rumanian relations. Rarely cordial, these relations are now probably even more friction-laden because Rumania's defiance of bloc solidarity at the recent meetings in Budapest and Sofia.

#### Hungarian Premier Fock to Visit France

On 25 March Premier Jeno Fock of Hungary is scheduled to begin a five day visit to France. This will mark the first such visit by a Hungarian head of state since World War II. Fock will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Janos Peter and a sizeable delegation. Fock will speak with his French counterpart Georges Pompidou and will reportedly dine with DeGaulle on 29 March. Peter will continue the round of consultative discussions with Couve de Murville which began last year. 25X1

-3-

COMMENT: French-Hungarian relations have blossomed under the influence of the Soviet-French rapprochement. The Hungarian population has responded favorably to this growing opening to the West. A recent RFE poll shows that France has replaced West Germany as the country about which Hungarians indicated the most favorable reactions.

#### Poles React to Brandt's Oder-Neisse Policy Statement

Disavowing intent to link the SPD leader to West German "revanchists," the party daily of 21 March nevertheless stated that it is hard to escape the impression that Brandt wanted to "show one face to God and another to the devil." The editorial flatly reiterated the familiar Polish position that recognition of "all" existing frontiers, including those of the GDR, are the basic prerequisites for "normalization" of Polish-West German relations.

The trade union daily Glos Pracy stated that "the frontier 25X1 problem is for us settled, and we do not intend to start any dialog on this subject either at present or in the future."

COMMENT: The Poles are clearly standing pat on their support of East Germany, but they reportedly are genuinely interested in the Bonn proposal on the renunciation of force.

25X1

#### East Germans Host Syrian Communist Chief

Syrian Communist party chief Chaled Bagdash, currently visiting East Germany, is getting the red carpet treatment by the regime.

25X1

25X1

25X1

-4-

[REDACTED] 25X1  
[REDACTED] He is scheduled to be received by  
Ulbricht on 26 March and probably will depart for Damascus  
the following day. [REDACTED] 25X1

COMMENT: The East Germans, who have been lobbying long  
and hard for recognition by the Arab countries, apparently 25X1  
feel that they have found a champion for their cause in  
Bagdash.

25X1 [REDACTED]  
NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT  
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION